

# A Message from the Sheriff

The new millennium will be a rare and unusual event. Relatively few people have witnessed the start of another thousand years... and such an event is quite significant in and of itself.

The Year 2000 is bringing its own signature notoriety, unique even for such a unique event. Quite frankly, no one knows for sure what Y2K will bring. And too often when we don't know we guess, which in the case of Y2K has led to a lot of speculation about impending disaster. But we Southern Californians are used to the unpredictable: earthquakes, fires, and floods occur here every year. Being prepared for disasters at worst, or minor inconveniences at best, is something for which all of us living in Ventura County are well adapted.

Let me assure you that all of your public agencies and utilities are working hard to ensure that systems stay operational on January 1<sup>st</sup> and after. The men and women of the Sheriff's Department are at the ready to protect and serve you in the manner on which you depend.

Likewise, we all need to personally be ready for any emergency. Please take the time to review this pamphlet, and make sure that you, your family, and friends have taken the necessary steps to be prepared for Y2K and any other potential calamity. We all need to do it, regardless of Y2K.

Be prepared, and by so doing we can look forward to a happy and prosperous new millennium!



# Y2K Residential Checklist

This checklist is provided to assist you in preparing for problems which may occur as a result of the Year 2000 "Millennium Bug."

On January 1, 2000, equipment and computer devices with date sensitive chips or software may fail as the date rolls over to the new year. The problem, known as Y2K or the Millennium Bug, arises from the fact that many computer systems reflect years with only two digits instead of four. They may fail to correctly handle dates beyond 1999.

The impacts of Y2K are expected to be far reaching, and will most likely affect:

Government	Banking/Investment
Utilities	Telecommunications
Business	Transportation
Industry	Health Care

As far as individuals are concerned, preparing for Y2K should be much like preparing for a major storm or an earthquake:

Plan to help friends, neighbors, and your community, as necessary.

Maintain a minimum of three to five days of supplies such as food, water, a first aid kit, flashlights, spare batteries, warm clothing, etc. Stock up on emergency supplies prior to December 1999 (see the back panel for a checklist of specific supplies).

As in preparing for any other emergency, maintain a supply of cash in the event that ATM's, Check Verification Systems, and/or Credit Card Authorization Systems are not functional.

Copy and carry Health Insurance Cards and prescriptions.

Make arrangements with your doctor or HMO before December 1999 to obtain an extra month's supply of prescription medications.

If you use life support equipment that requires electricity, consider alternative power sources. Also, let your local electrical provider know as soon as possible that you are on electrically dependent life support. If the power does go out, they will know to respond promptly to your needs.

Obtain CPR and First Aid training.

Verify that your home programmable thermostat and/or security system and/or lawn sprinkler system is Year 2000 compliant.

Maintain at least a half tank of gasoline in your automobile at all times, especially in December.

Persons with travel plans during the year 2000 should confirm reservations and plans prior to departure.

Packages being mailed or shipped via express mail should be sent as early as possible.

Check with your bank or credit union to determine their Y2K contingency plans.

Maintain detailed, up-to-date records of financial transactions, such as 1999 bank and credit card statements, pay stubs, income tax records, and Social Security statements, should issues arise.

All bills and payments due that contain interest payments or penalties based on late charges should be inspected and detailed records kept.

Check with your broker regarding Y2K risks to your investments.

Southern California Edison advises us not unplug and then re-plug major electrical appliances in order to avoid power spikes. Doing so may cause surges in the electrical system, which operates best with consistent demands. If you have any questions or special power needs, contact your local electrical provider.

Most personal devices such as PCs, VCRs, home theater systems, clocks, fax machines, and answering machines can be manually reset.

Maintain awareness of your employer's Year 2000 compliance status.

Watch for Y2K information that may be included as an insert with your bills/monthly statements.

Stay informed about Y2K issues and progress.

**Remember, be prepared, not scared.**

## Public Safety Tips for the Millennium Celebration

This New Year's celebration will be the biggest in any of our lifetimes. Have fun, but please follow these tips to a happy and safe New Year:

- **Watch out for drunk drivers and others too distracted to drive safely.** Please don't drink and drive, or let anyone else do either. Make sure that there is always a sober designated driver in your party.
- **Fireworks are illegal in Ventura County.** Not only are they against the law, but are also dangerous and potentially destructive.
- **Do not shoot any firearms in or around your neighborhood.** It's a serious crime, not to mention terribly foolish and deadly. A typical handgun round shot into the air can easily kill or wound anyone within a two mile radius of where you are... and the bullet can land anywhere. Rifles are even more lethal.
- **Exercise extreme caution on the road.** If traffic lights don't work, treat every intersection as a 4-way stop: come to a full stop and only go when you're certain it's safe. Don't expect that everyone else is obeying the rules... drive defensively.
- **Please don't call family or friends at midnight just to see if they're OK or to see if the phones are working.** Your phone service could go down just because you and many others are making these calls at the same time.
- **Relax and enjoy yourself.** If you're prepared for Y2K, and encourage others to do the same, there'll be nothing to worry about. Be prepared... not scared.

## Toll-Free Line Provides Y2K Information to Consumers

*The President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion* has a toll-free Y2K information line for providing consumers information about the Year 2000 computer problem. The toll-free number is **1-888-USA-4-Y2K**.

### Internet Sites

Listed below are just a few of the sites on the World Wide Web that pertain to the Year 2000 problem. Each site has links to other Y2K web sites.

<http://www.ventura.org/sheriff>

Ventura County Sheriff's Department web site with a section on Y2K.

<http://www.fema.gov/y2k/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency website that contains articles and preparedness tips on the Y2K problem.

<http://www.oes.ca.gov> State of California Office of Emergency Services web site with information on the Year 2000 problem.

<http://www.year2000.com/>

Provides a forum for disseminating information about the Y2K problem.

<http://www.proact.org>

Bills itself as a Y2K Education, Preparation, Support, and Ministry site.

**Y2K Readiness Disclosure:** The information presented in this brochure is believed to be accurate and of practical value in reducing the negative impact of the Y2K problem, but no guarantee can be given that the guidance presented here will provide complete protection. Liability for any losses that may occur as a result of applying the information contained in this brochure is specifically disclaimed by the County of Ventura, the Ventura County Operational Area, Ventura County Emergency Services Organization and any consultants or advisors involved in producing or reviewing material for this brochure.

## Emergency Supplies to Keep On Hand for Any Emergency

(Store enough supplies for a minimum of **three** to **five** days)

- Water-2 quarts to 1 gallon per person per day
- Food (packaged, canned, no-cook, baby food, and for special diets)
- First aid kit - freshly stocked
- First aid book
- Can opener (non-electric)
- Portable radio, flashlight and spare batteries
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Essential medications and eye glasses
- Fire extinguisher - A-B-C type
- Food and water for pets
- Money
- Large plastic trash bags for trash, waste, and water protection
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Large trash cans
- Bar soap and liquid detergent
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Feminine and infant supplies
- Household bleach
- Barbecue or camp stove for cooking outside
- Sturdy shoes; change of clothing
- Paper plates and cups
- Plastic knives, forks, spoons



# Y2K RESIDENTIAL CHECKLIST



Provided by the  
**Ventura County Sheriff's Department**  
**Office of Emergency Services**  
**(805) 654-2551**  
**BOB BROOKS, Sheriff**